

VZCZCXRO1771
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHK #6590 3210610
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 170610Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8400
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8848
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2255
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4902
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1360
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1014
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2522
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 006590

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OITP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - ABE-BUSH TALKS - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: FRIDAY MORNING'S NIHON KEIZAI FRONT-PAGED PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH THURSDAY IN SINGAPORE, IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY PROPOSED THE CONCLUSION OF AN APEC-WIDE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA). HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO EXPAND DEFENSE COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

[¶](#)1. "ABE AND BUSH: CREATING A RELATIONSHIP THAT ALLOWS FOR FRANK TALKS" THE MODERATE TOKYO SHIMBUN EDITORIALIZED (11/17): "PRIME MINISTER ABE WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT BUSH IN HANOI SATURDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER. THEY WILL NEED TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP THAT ALLOWS THEM TO SPEAK CANDIDLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF TRADE FRICTION AND TO MAINTAIN A STABLE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.... FOLLOWING THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE US AND JAPAN, COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND ELSEWHERE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE DIPLOMATIC POLICIES OF WASHINGTON AND TOKYO AND THE COURSE OF THEIR BILATERAL ALLIANCE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT NORTH KOREA IS HOPEFUL THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WILL BE INCLINED TO TAKE A CONCILIATORY APPROACH FOLLOWING THE DEMOCRATIC TAKEOVER OF CONGRESS. ABE AND BUSH WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON PYONGYANG IN ORDER TO FORCE IT TO RESOLVE THE NUCLEAR CRISIS THROUGH DIALOGUE. THE US AND JAPAN CAN ALSO COOPERATE CLOSELY ON SUCH ISSUES FACING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM, THE WAR ON TERRORISM, STRENGTHENING THE FREE ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION TO THOSE, THERE ARE AREAS IN WHICH JAPAN WILL NEED TO PROVIDE BLUNT ADVICE TO THE US AS A FRIEND, SUCH AS THE ENVIRONMENT."

DONOVAN